

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 AID-05 IGA-02 DHA-02 ORM-02

SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00

OMB-01 MCT-01 /123 W

-----271517Z 081091 /42

P R 271250Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2080

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USIA WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER/ECJ4-7

DIS WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LUBUMBASHI 0353

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MILI, MOPS, CG, MO

SUBJ: INVASION OF SHABA: THE VIEW FROM KOLWEZI AT THE END OF MAY

REF: LUBUMBASHI 252

1. SUMMARY. AS THE MILITARY FRONT HAS BEEN PUSHED FURTHER TOWARD

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THE ANGOLAN BORDER, THERE IS LESS TALK IN KOLWEZI ABOUT MILITARY ACTIVITIES, DESPITE THE PRESENCE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY AND MILITARY HEADQUARTERS. SINCE MID-APRIL NO NEW REPORTS OF KILLING OF CIVILIANS BY FAZ IN REOCCUPIED VILLAGES. NUMBER OF MILITARY CASUALTIES IN KOLWEZI HOSPITALS ALSO DIMINISHED. PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WHICH HAS NOW BEEN IN KOLWEZI FOR MORE THAN ONE MONTH IS MAKING FEWER DEMANDS ON LOCAL RESOURCES THAN WHEN IT FIRST

ARRIVED. MOROCCAN TROOPS AND FRENCH ADVISERS GIVEN GOOD MARKS FOR DISCIPLINED ACTIONS AND COMPREHENSION OF SHABA SITUATION. LOCAL OFFICIALS REPORTEDLY ARE SEEKING TO PROFIT FROM WAR ACTIVITIES, PARTICULARLY FROM HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. ACTIVITIES OF MAJOR COMPANIES SUCH AS GECAMINES AND SNCZ RETURNING TO NORMAL, BUT MANY SMALLER FIRMS BEING FORCED TO MAKE FREQUENT GIFTS OF GOODS AND SERVICES TO OFFICIALS. WHILE PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS NOT INCREASED GOVERNMENT'S POPULARITY DURING HIS STAY IN KOLWEZI, MOST RECOGNIZE THAT HIS PRESENCE AMELIORATED SITUATION BETWEEN SOLDIERS AND LOCAL RESIDENTS. AFTER DEPARTURE OF MOROCCANS, MANY KOLWEZI RESIDENTS TALK OF EXPECTING INVADERS TO RETURN. REPORT IS BASED ON VISIT TO KOLWEZI BY CONSUL MAY 22-25.

2. MILITARY FRONT NOW AT LEAST 300 KM WEST OF KOLWEZI AND FEW DETAILS KNOWN LOCALLY BY POPULATION OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL ADDITIONAL PEOPLE PROVIDED DETAILS OF MASSACRES WHICH OCCURRED IN THE LUFUPA AREA AROUND MID-APRIL, THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF SUBSEQUENT PROBLEMS. THE CATHOLIC BISHOP IN WHOSE DIOCESE INVASION TOOK PLACE POINTED OUT TWO POSSIBLE EXPLANATIONS: (1) ALMOST ALL REOCCUPIED VILLAGES WERE ABANDONED WHEN FAZ ARRIVED AND (2) THE GREATER DISTANCE TO THE FRONT SLOWED THE ARRIVAL OF ANY POSSIBLE NEWS OR REFUGEES.

3. KOLWEZI HOSPITALS RECEIVING FEWER WOUNDED IN RECENT DAYS. CHIEF OF GECAMINES HOSPITAL, WHERE ALL MORE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED ARE TREATED, SAID NO MORE THAN TWO OR THREE WOUNDED ARRIVING EACH DAY, GENERALLY FROM DILOLO OR SANDOA AREA. HE NOTED THAT COLONEL DIKUTA, WHOSE CAR WAS DESTROYED IN MORTAR INCIDENT NEAR SANDOA SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER, WAS RECUPERATING IN HIS HOSPITAL. HE GAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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TOTAL NUMBER OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS TREATED AT HOSPITAL SINCE INVASION BEGAN AT ABOUT 200. HE SAID GECAMINES HAS NOT YET RECEIVED ANY MEDICINES FROM ANY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT SOURCES AND WAS RELYING TOTALLY ON ITS OWN STOCK. HE DOUBTED IF ANY FOREIGN MEDICINES HAD REACHED KOLWEZI AREA AS MILITARY DOCTORS WERE REGULARLY SEEKING SUPPLIES FROM HIM. STATE HOSPITAL WHERE MOROCCAN TREATING THEIR WOUNDED, NUMBERING ABOUT 30-40 AT PRESENT, BETTER SUPPLIED NOW BUT THROUGH MOROCCAN SOURCES. ZAIRIAN DOCTOR IN CHARGE OF STATE HOSPITAL ALSO RECENTLY RECEIVED 60 CASES OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES AFTER VISIT BY PRESIDENT MOBUTU, BUT MOST OF SUPPLY BOXES WERE OF ZAIRIAN ORIGIN. HE SAID NONE OF PRESIDENT'S DONATION CAME FROM AMERICAN SOURCES.

4. PRESIDENT MOBUTU HAS NOW BEEN IN KOLWEZI FOR MORE THAN ONE MONTH, BUT HIS PRESENCE CAUSES LESS DISRUPTION NOW THAN WHEN HE FIRST ARRIVED. NUMBER OF OFFICIAL CEREMONIES REQUIRING PRESENCE OF ALL PUBLIC FIGURES GREATLY DIMINISHED. WHEN SPECIAL HOLIDAYS DECLARED AS ON MAY 24 TO HONOR VISIT BY PRESIDENT OF TOGO, ALL SMALL SHOPS CLOSED, BUT LARGE COMPANIES SUCH AS GECAMINES AND SNCZ PAID LITTLE

ATTENTION. PRESIDENTIAL PARTY WHOSE CUSTOMARY ZAIRIAN SUITS HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY OLIVE DRAB UNIFORMS SEEM TO PASS THE DAYS WITH VISITS TO THE FRONTLINES OR IN MEETINGS AT VARIOUSLY EX-PROPRIATED LOCAL HOUSES, MILITARY HEADQUARTERS NEAR THE AIRPORT AND AT KOLWEZI'S TWO EUROPEAN RESTAURANTS. THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY TOOK OVER APPROXIMATELY 30 HOUSES FROM GECAMINES TO USE AS RESIDENCES AND OFFICES, BUT ALL EXCEPT ABOUT 5 WERE UNOCCUPIED, HAVING BEEN RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED AS PART OF GECAMINES EXPANSION PROGRAM OR BELONGING TO VACATIONING EXPATRIATES. ACCORDING TO KOLWEZI GECAMINES HEAD, THE MORE OUTRAGEOUS DEMANDS FOR SERVICES IMPOSED BY THE PRESIDENCY ON GECAMINES DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS HAVE DROPPED OFF SIGNIFICANTLY.

5. ZAIRIAN OWNER OF KOLWEZI'S PRINCIPAL HOTEL AND RESTAURANT, THE IMPALA, WHICH HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY REQUISITIONED BY PRESIDENCY SAID HE HAS RECEIVED NO PAYMENTS FOR ROOMS, MEALS, OR BEVERAGES FROM ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SINCE INVASION BEGAN. HE ESTIMATES
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HIS LOSSES AT 6,000-8,000 ZAIRES PER WEEK WHICH HE IS FORCED TO COVER FROM HIS OWN POCKET. SINCE HE IS SHABA NATIVE, HE DARES NOT CEASE OPERATIONS FOR FEAR HE WOULD BE ARRESTED IMMEDIATELY.

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ACTION AF-10

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OMB-01 MCT-01 /123 W

-----271516Z 081433 /42

P R 271250Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 208

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER/ECJ4-7
DIS WASHDC
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LUBUMBASHI 0353

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, MILI, MOPS, CG, MO
SUBJ: INVASION OF SHABA: THE VIEW FROM KOLWEZI AT THE END OF MAY

6. MOST LOCAL OBSERVERS GAVE VERY HIGH MARKS TO THE BEHAVIOR OF THE MOROCCAN TROOPS AND THE ACTIONS OF THE FRENCH ADVISORS. INCIDENTS BETWEEN FOREIGN SOLDIERS AND LOCAL POPULATION REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL

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VERY UNCOMMON. BOTH FRENCH AND MOROCCAN OFFICERS SEEM TO HAVE DECIDED THAT INVADERS ARE LOCAL FORCE RATHER THAN FOREIGN COMMUNISTS AND THAT FAZ IS MAJOR THREAT TO TRANQUILLITY IN WESTERN SHABA. GERMAN PRIEST SAID IT WAS MOROCCAN OFFICER WHO TOOK HIM TO CORPSES OF VICTIMS OF FAZ BRUTALITIES IN LUFUPA AREA. OFFICERS OF BOTH FOREIGN UNITS REPORTED ANXIOUS TO DEPART FROM ZAIRE. FRENCH WORKING VERY CLOSELY WITH MWANT YAV (CHIEF OF ALL LUNDA AND BROTHER OF MOISE TSHOMBE), WHO HAS BEEN FORCED TO STAY IN KOLWEZI UNDER GENERAL SURVEILLANCE SINCE EARLY APRIL. MWANT YAV EXCHANGES INFORMATION WITH AND INTERPRETS PHOTOS FOR THE FRENCH. HE SAID FRENCH HAD TOLD HIM THEY FORCED FAZ TO STOP USING NAPALM, HAD TAKEN STEPS TO KEEP ALGERIANS OUT OF WAR, AND HAD THREATENED TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FROM MOBUTU IF TERRORISM AGAINST LUNDAS CONTINUED.

7. MAJOR LOCAL TOPIC OF DISCUSSION IS ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS OFFICIALS TO ENRICH THEMSELVES AS A RESULT OF WAR. MOST REPORTS POINT TO SHABA OFFICIALS RATHER THAN PRESIDENT'S PARTY AS PRINCIPAL PROFITEERS. KOLWEZI SHOPS VISITED PERIODICALLY FOR EXACTIONS. SIGNIFICANT LOSSES REPORTED IN CHARITABLE DONATIONS TO WAR VICTIMS IN "MAMA MOBUTU WORKS" PROGRAM. GERMANS REPORTEDLY BECAME SO UPSET WITH MISAPPROPRIATIONS OF RECENTLY DONATED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE THAT THEY HAVE REFUSED TO CONTINUE TO CHANNEL IT THROUGH GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE. GERMAN ASSISTANCE PRESENTLY STORED IN WAREHOUSES OF LOCAL GERMAN BUSINESSMAN AND GERMAN PRIEST WHO DISSEMINATE IT AS OPPORTUNI-

TIES PRESENT THEMSELVES. GERMAN PRIEST SAID HE WAS RECENTLY APPROACHED BY SUB-REGIONAL OFFICIAL WHO DEMANDED FIFTY SACKS OF PROVISIONS EACH FOR HIMSELF, THE SUB-REGIONAL COMMISSIONER, AND THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONER WITH THREAT OF JAIL IF THE PRIEST DID NOT COMPLY. ALTHOUGH THE PRIEST ORDERED HIM TO LEAVE WITHOUT PROVIDING THE GIFTS, NO ACTION TAKEN YET BY OFFICIALS.

8. GECAMINES MINING ACTIVITIES RETURNING TO NORMAL. MORALE IMPROVING AMONG EXPATRIATES AND ABSENTEEISM DECLINING AMONG ZAIRIAN WORKERS. PRODUCTION LEVELS HAVE BEEN MAINTAINED BY
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GREATER EFFORTS BY WORKERS AND CADRES AND VARIOUS SHORTCUTS. SOME LOSSES EXPECTED IN COMING MONTHS AS RESULT OF INADEQUATE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE AND PROBLEMS STEMMING FROM SHORTCUTS, BUT NOT EXPECTED TO BE GREAT. APPROXIMATELY 20 OF 100 ODD EXPROPRIATED VEHICLES HAVE BEEN RETURNED. GECAMINES HEAD EXPECTS THAT PERHPAS 50 PER CENT OF BORROWED VEHICLES WILL NOT BE RETURNED OR IF RETURNED NO LONGER USABLE, BUT DID NOT LOOK UPON THIS AS SERIOUS PROBLEM.

9. SNCZ RAILROAD OFFICIALS ARE ACTIVELY ATTEMPTING TO REESTABLISH SERVICE IN WESTERN SHABA. AS OF MAY 24, TRAINS COULD OPERATE AS FAR AS KASAJI, ALTHOUGH SNCZ HAD ONLY BEEN ABLE TO REPOST AGENTS AS FAR AS MUTSHATSHA. ELECTRICITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS HAD ALSO BEEN ESTABLISHED AS FAR AS MUTSHATSHA. MOST TRAINS IN KOLWEZI AREA PRESENTLY TIED UP MOVING TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT INTO WESTERN SHABA.

10. LIFE IN KOLWEZI GRADUALLY RETURNING TO NORMAL. ALTHOUGH CURFEW NEVER LIFTED, IT NO LONGER SEEMS ENFORCED. IN DAYS FOLLOWING BRUTAL KILLING BY FAZ OF ITALIAN ENGINEER AT ROAD BARRICADE IN THE MIDDLE OF TOWN ON MAY 4, ALL BARRICADES WITHIN TOWN WERE REMOVED. WHILE SOLDIERS CAN BE SEEN THROUGHOUT TOWN, INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT GREATLY REDUCED. WEEKEND OF MAY 21 WAS OCCASION FOR LARGE NUMBER OF SOCIAL FUNCTIONS LASTING LATE INTO THE EVENING WITHOUT ANY REPORTED PROBLEMS.

11. CONCLUSION: PRESIDENTIAL PARTY EXPECTED TO DEPART FOR KINSHASA SHORTLY. DEPARTURE AFTER FIVE WEEKS EXPECTED TO BE MIXED BLESSING. ON ONE HAND IT WILL RELIEVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CORPORATE BODIES OF SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL PARTY. AT SAME TIME, PRESENCE OF MOBUTU SERVED TO STABILIZE SITUATION. AFTER PRESIDENT ARRIVED IN KOLWEZI, FAZ HOSTILITIES TOWARD LOCAL POPULATION IN CONTESTED AREAS AND ENVIRONS OF KOLWEZI GREATLY DIMINISHED. PRESIDENT'S ORDER TO EXECUTE SOLDIERS WHO KILLED ITALIAN ENGINEER AND LIFT BARRICADES AND CURFEW AROUND TOWN GREATLY IMPROVED MORALE AMONG EXPATRIATE COMMUNITY, WHO
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BELIEVE SUCH ACTIONS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING IF THE PRESIDENT WERE ELSEWHERE. WHILE HARASSMENT AND STEALING BY SOLDIERS AND OFFICIALS HAS NOT INCREASED AND THE MOBUTU GOVERNMENT'S POPULARITY IN KOLWEZI AND CLAIMS OF THE PRESIDENT'S BRILLIANT MILITARY LEADERSHIP ARE GENERALLY SCORNEED, MOST KOLWEZI RESIDENTS SEEM TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE SITUATION WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE HAD THE PRESIDENT NOT BEEN IN KOLWEZI.

12. CREDIT FOR DRIVING OUT THE INVADERS IS GENERALLY GIVEN TO MOROCCANS, WHO PROVIDED A DISCIPLINED MODEL FOR FAZ, AND TO FRENCH, WHO PROVIDED CONTINUOUS SUPPORT. WHILE THE WAR SEEMS TO BE COMING TO AN END, FEW KOLWEZI RESIDENTS EXPECT HOSTILITIES TO CEASE COMPLETELY. THERE IS MUCH TALK OF A RETURN OF THE INVADERS AFTER THE MOROCCANS DEPART, THOUGH PERHAPS NOT IMMEDIATELY AND POSSIBLY AS GUERILLA UNITS. FEW THINK THAT FAZ IS MORE COMPETENT OR A MORE DISCIPLINED FIGHTING FORCE THAN AT TIME OF INVASION.

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